



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska  
**Deborah R. Gilg**

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October 18, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah Gilg and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

On October 13, 2010, Chief United States District Court Judge Joseph F. Bataillon sentenced Karen Red Owl to five years probation for her conviction of embezzlement from an Indian tribal organization. Red Owl was further ordered to pay restitution to the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska in the amount of \$9,174.

Red Owl was an employee of the Santee Sioux Tribal Court whose duties included making deposits of funds received by the court. For the period of March 1, 2006, through February 28, 2007, 195 receipts totaling \$14,171.00 were reviewed, but it was discovered that only \$9,455.00 was actually deposited. In February of 2009, the Santee Sioux Human Resources Director and the Santee Sioux Chief Executive Officer directed Red Owl to provide the court's most recent receipt book, but Red Owl claimed it had been lost. In March of 2009, Red Owl went to the office of the Santee Sioux Human Resources Director and admitted to having stolen cash payments received by the court. The tribe estimates the amount she had taken to be \$9,174.00.

**Name of Defendant:** Karen Red Owl

**AKA:**

**Age:** 52

**City of residence:** Niobrara, Nebraska

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Embezzlement from an Indian Tribal Organization in violation of 18 USC §1163. The statutory maximum penalty is five years of imprisonment and/or a \$250,000 fine, three years of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Santee, Nebraska

**Location of Arrest:** A summons was issued

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:**

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:**

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** 3/1/06 through 3/1/09

**Federal Arrest Date:** Summons was issued

**Date Complaint Issued:**

**Indictment Returned Date:** May 18, 2010

**Initial Appearance Date:** July 9, 2010

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** Plea entered on July 9, 2010

**Sentencing Date:** October 13, 2010

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:**

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:**

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** released from custody

**In Continuous Custody Since:**

**Assigned District Court Judge:** Honorable Joseph F. Bataillon

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** DRS